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Carter's Assassination Scare

President Reagan is not the first Chief Executive to be alarmed by reports of foreign plots. In the early months of the Carter Administration, intelligence sources suggested that the Navy's Filipino stewards who service the White House mess had been infiltrated by assassins planning to poison the President. The episode never became public. Outside the White House the information was restricted to the heads of the FBI, CIA and the Secret Service—even Carter's domestic advisers were kept in the dark, "because they would blab," according to a former Carter official. In an implied criticism of Reagan's handling of the current Libyan threat, the Carter man adds, "In every Administration there are serious problems which involve foreign governments. We had such cases . . . Fortunately, we didn't have leaks, nor did we blow them up."